



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Department of Toxic Substances Control

News Release

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State Fines Rancho Cordova Company \$600,000 for Endangering the Environment

SACRAMENTO – A Rancho Cordova company faces \$600,000 in fines for hazardous waste storage violations that posed a risk to the environment. General Environmental Management of Rancho Cordova, LLC (GEM) violated conditions of its permit and state hazardous waste law, according to the California Department of Toxic Substances Control which issued the fine. The violations occurred for more than 24 months from December 2006 through March 2009, which contributed to the unusually large fine.

“The large volume of waste and unauthorized storage of hazardous waste at the facility put public health and the environment at risk,” said DTSC Acting Director Maziar Movassaghi. “We expect those companies in the business of managing hazardous waste to meet all applicable protective requirements and to operate within the constraints of their permit. DTSC will continue to hold hazardous waste management facilities accountable for improper storage and handling of the hazardous waste they manage for others.”

During a March 2009, routine inspection of the GEM facility located at 11855 White Rock Road., Rancho Cordova, DTSC inspectors uncovered multiple hazardous waste violations. DTSC also found documented evidence that some violations dated back to December 2006.

The GEM violations include:

- Storing chemicals and hazardous waste outside the authorized facility, and exceeding the permitted facility hazardous waste quantity limit for a significant period of time.
- Storing chemicals and hazardous waste in unauthorized areas of the facility.
- Storing hazardous waste without proper precautions such as a required secondary containment.

The waste involved included more than 82,300 gallons of acids, solvents, and toxins.

In some cases, the company exceeded the permitted storage capacity by as much as 150 percent. This greatly increased the potential for spills and/or the mixing of incompatible chemicals, that could jeopardize humans and the environment.

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From 2009 until now DTSC has been working with GEM owners to address the violations and ensure the fine will be paid. The GEM facility is now under new corporate ownership, and has made several operational and management changes, which is part of the reason for delay of the final settlement. GEM (now doing business as PSC Environmental Services of Rancho Cordova, LLC) operates a hazardous waste storage and treatment facility servicing hazardous waste generators in Northern California.

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FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES: Contact the Department of Toxic Substances Control by phone at (800) 728-6942 or visit www.dtsc.ca.gov. To report illegal handling, discharge, or disposal of hazardous waste, call the Waste Alert Hotline at (800) 698-6942.

The Mission of the Department of Toxic Substances Control is to provide the highest level of safety, and to protect public health and the environment from toxic harm.